

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 28, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 28, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed herein.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the Response filed on October 19, 2006 was not fully responsive for failing to present arguments regarding patentability of new claims 86-95.

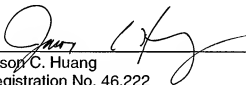
Runia discloses a drill bit having a removable closure element and a fluid injection tool for removing the closure element and introducing fluid into the borehole. *Runia* discloses stopping the cement when the top of the cement reaches the level of the face of the bit body. (See, para. [0058]). The fluid injection tool is retracted when the cement has sufficiently hardened. (See, para. [0059]). *Runia* does not teach, show, or suggest positioning a one-way valve above the at least one secondary passage and directing a cement through the at least one secondary fluid passage into an annulus between the drill string and the borehole, wherein the one way valve prevents the cement in the annulus from flowing back up the interior of the drill string, as recited in new claim 86.

Glowka discloses an apparatus for simultaneously and separately placing two streams of different materials through a drill string in a borehole. The two streams mix together below the drill bit 14 as they flow into the loss zone in the formation below the drill string 1, thereby starting a chemical reaction that hardens the cement. (See, col. 6, lns. 61-66). *Glowka* does not teach, show, or suggest positioning a one-way valve above the at least one secondary passage and directing a cement through the at least one secondary fluid passage into an annulus between the drill string and the borehole, wherein the one way valve prevents the cement in the annulus from flowing back up the interior of the drill string, as recited in new claim 86.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 86-95 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. Huang
Registration No. 46,222
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants